

TRI-CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY **ANNUAL REPORT**

Includes RTPO Program

JULY 2002

INTRODUCTION:

The Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (BFCG) is a voluntary association of local governments within Benton and Franklin Counties. Its governing board consists of fourteen elected officials from cities, counties, and public port districts within the two county area. Eight of the fourteen elected officials are from the Tri-Cities Urbanized area, which makes up the Tri-Cities Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (Tri-MATS) area. The BFCG has also been delegated a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO). The Benton-Franklin RTPO was successfully created in 1990, with Walla Walla joining in January of 1991. Walla Walla jurisdictions vote as equal members on all transportation issues relating to the RTPO.

The BFCG was designated by the Governor of the State of Washington in 1973 as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Tri-Cities area. By this designation, the BFCG is responsible for ensuring that transportation planning activities, and their resulting implementation, are a result of U.S.C. Section 134, as well as Title 49 U.S.C. of Federal Code. Fulfilling these requirements permitted local governments to utilize Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and TEA 21 of 1998. The BFCG has been certified as meeting the requirements of Title 23 and Title 49, as well as being an MPO. This certification by the Washington State Department of Transportation is valid through September of 2002.

This annual report identifies work activities that were contained within the 2002 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and describes the progress and accomplishments that occurred during the twelve month period from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002. A UPWP guides the transportation planning activities of the MPO/RTPO for a one or two year period. During that time, program tasks that will

benefit member agencies, the region, and the State are undertaken to improve the efficiency of the overall system. Identification of these tasks includes the development of objectives, scope of work, responsibility for completion of the work, and funding the anticipated product. Occasionally, during the course of a fiscal year, new work tasks are identified or current activities reprioritized. When changes to the work programs are proposed, those changes are reviewed by the MPO/RTPO Tri-MATS Advisory Committees, BFCG Board, WSDOT, and the applicable federal agency before being accepted and incorporated into the study program. This year the BFT "On Board Survey" was not completed and will be combined with a future BFT/BFCG marketing plan. Instead of the "On Board Survey" being completed, a transit LOS study was accomplished: BFCG also coordinated efforts of the "Three Rivers One Community" vision.

This year's Annual Report reflects the work program for fiscal year 2002, special studies, and includes the RTPO program.

Fiscal Year 2002 Accomplishments:

1. Conducted TAC and PAC meetings with associated Agendas and Minutes.
2. Completed Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY 2002.
3. Prepare and amended the 2002-2004 MPO/RTPO TIP.
4. Prepared FY 2001 Annual progress report.
5. Completed the MPO/RTPO Regional Transportation Plan and associated traffic modeling.
6. Attended MPO/RTPO, Good Roads, TIB, TPEAC, WTP, GMA, Inland Corridors Initiative, and assorted meetings and workshops related to transportation (i.e. environmental, regional governance).
7. Continued expanding data collection program for the three county RTPO.
8. Continued transit coordination and completed LOS study.
9. Continued public dissemination of state and federal transportation policies and programs.
10. Completed and published the Tri-Cities Bicycle Guide Map update.
11. Conducted Commute Trip Reduction Workshop.

12. Continued to evaluate TDM alternatives to reduce congestion.
13. Conducted traffic counts in smaller jurisdictions.
14. Conducted Referendum 51 Informational Forum (taped for TV).
15. Completed transportation element certification for nine local jurisdictions.
16. Participated in planning/design studies for the four-laning of SR 12 from SR 124 to Walla Walla.
17. Completed Functional Classification review and update.
18. Continued the GIS computer program mapping activities for MPO & RTPO.
19. Developed a comprehensive BFCG website.
20. Produced RTPO Annual Traffic Report and added to website.
21. Produced 1st draft of RTPO “Transportation Trends” report i.e. VMT growth.
22. Continue tracking of STP Urban and Rural Allocation for 2002-2003.
23. Continued employee training and development.
24. Incorporated Environmental Justice into BFCG Public Involvement Procedures.
25. Completed coordination on Washington Transportation Plan.
26. Attended GMA meetings in Moses Lake.
27. Conducted meetings addressing “TEA III” issues and developed “white paper” recommendations.
28. Participated in coordination for Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.
29. Published monthly newsletter.
30. Coordinated efforts for the Tri-Cities “Three Rivers One Community” vision.

The remainder of this annual report identifies individual work categories and what was accomplished during the course of the fiscal year. Each category noted identifies its purpose, accomplishments, and work remaining to be done.

FISCAL YEAR 2002
RTPO
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2002
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PROGRAM ELEMENTS:

CATEGORY 220 - RTPO PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Attended regularly scheduled RTPO meetings; Continued to work with Walla Walla County in RTPO; Continued to administer RTPO Program that is relevant to the Benton/Franklin/Walla Walla Rural Area; Attended various workshops on transportation; Hosted educational forums. Including education forum on Referendum 51. Participated in TPEAC (envir. legis.). Participated in planning/design studies for SR 12 four laning from SR 124 to Walla Walla. Developed "white paper" recommendation on TEA-21 reauthorization. Began CTR groundwork for Benton County in anticipation of implementation next year. Coordinated Rural Benton STP funding program. Incorporated Environmental Justice into public involvement procedures.

PROBLEMS: None

NEXT YEAR: Administration is an ongoing process for the Benton/Franklin/Walla Walla RTPO. Review and update the freight and goods transportation system maps and listings. Continue work toward mandatory implementation of Commute Trip Reduction in Benton County. Develop SR 12/ A Street transportation study partnership.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$30,231	\$30,231	0	100%	100%

CATEGORY 221 - RTPO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Submitted Annual Report to WSDOT; Completed Regional Transportation Plan for RTPO; Compiled RTPO TIP. Completed nine Certifications; completed UPWP. Revised/updated RTPO functional classification system. Developed BFCG comprehensive website.

PROBLEMS: None

NEXT YEAR: Continue certification of remaining jurisdiction's GMA transportation plans and complete social and economic report.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$35,000	\$35,000	0	100%	100%

CATEGORY 222 - RTPO DATA MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PROGRAMS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Updated population and employment documents; Compiled RTPO traffic counts; Continued working on mapping to support all RTPO functions.

PROBLEMS: None.

NEXT YEAR: Continue updating GIS/CAD databases; Continue GIS/CAD mapping work; Expand T-Model 2 forecasting applications for RTP and alternative land uses; Continue distribution of traffic count data.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$9,714	\$9,714	0	100%	100%

FISCAL YEAR 2002
FHWA (PL)/FTA
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WORK ELEMENT 220 - PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Provided the administrative support needed to manage and coordinate the Tri-MATS Transportation Planning Program. The activities included in the task are: Supervision of staff; Preparation of meeting agendas and minutes; Record keeping; Preparation of reports; Grant management; Coordination of activities between Tri-MATS and other agencies; Public information; and attendance at meetings. Coordinated staff and program updates with the elements and regulations of the TEA-21 Act. Attended Quarterly MPO meetings. Coordinated TDM/CTR meeting; Hosted educational forum on Ref. 51.; Worked on ESA/BA coordination. Coordinated "Three Rivers One Community" vision meetings. Incorporated Environmental Justice into BFCG Public Involvement Procedures. Coordinated with WSDOT on SR 240 six lane project. Developed "white paper" on TEA-21 reauthorization. Participated in planning for Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Managed and tracked urban STP program. Participated in Inland Corridors Initiative. Conducted transit LOS study.

PROBLEMS: None.

NEXT YEAR: Review and update the urban freight and goods transportation maps and listings. Work toward implementation of CTR law in Benton County. The balance of the Program Management Work Element is a function of the overall Tri-MATS program, and consequently remains similar each year.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$101,740	\$101,740	\$ 0	100%	100%

WORK ELEMENT 221 - MPO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Submitted Annual Report; Completed traffic modeling and regional Transportation Plan; UPWP; TIP; Developed comprehensive BFCG website providing access to all important documents, meeting notices, agendas, etc. Updated and published Tri-Cities Bicycle Guide Map.

PROBLEMS: None.

NEXT YEAR: TEA 21 programs. Compile social/economic report. Maintain currency of website.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete
\$73,948	\$73,948	0	100%	100%

WORK ELEMENT 222 - MPO DATA MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PROGRAMS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Continued updating and expanding GIS databases and building maps; Completed TAZ land use and population update. Calibrated and ran MPO model future scenarios for Regional Transportation Plan. Conducted traffic counts in West Richland. Conducted vehicle occupancy survey of Hanford commute.

PROBLEMS: None.

NEXT YEAR: Continue GIS/CAD mapping; Continue 2002 traffic counts.

EXPENDITURES

Amount Budgeted	Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Percent Expended	Percent of Work Complete

\$10,000	\$10,000	0	100%	100%
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SUMMARY SHEET FOR TRI-MATS ANNUAL REPORT (FY '02)

FHWA

ITEM	TOTAL
Salaries	117,328.55
Miscellaneous	10,439.44
Total Direct Costs	127,767.99
Total Indirect Costs	134,244.25
TOTAL COSTS	262,012.24
Local Match	(76,324.24)
FHWA GRANT (\$185,688)	185,688.00

RTPO

ITEM	TOTAL
Direct Salaries	45,722.13
Miscellaneous	3,295.51
Total Direct Costs	49,017.64
Total Indirect Costs	51,316.70
TOTAL COSTS	100,334.34
Local Match	(25,389.34)
RTPO GRANT (\$74,945)	74,945.00

TRI-MATS RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CALENDAR YEAR 2002 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ken Nelson, Chairman	585-4252	City of Kennewick, Administrative Office Manager
Pete Rogalsky, Vice-Chair	942-7558	City of Richland, Civil Engineer III
Tim Fife	545-3514	Franklin County Engineer/Public Works Director
Ross Dunfee	736-3084	Benton County Engineer/Public Works Director
Ed Frost	734-5107	BFT, Director of Specialized Transportation & Planning
Van Voorhies	545-3444	City of Pasco, City Engineer
Rosco Slade	967-3431	City of West Richland, Public Works Director
Randy Hayden	547-3378	Port of Pasco, Engineer
Troy Suing	577-1630	WSDOT, Planning Engineer
John Haakenson	375-3060	Port of Benton, Facility Manager
Jerry Hipp	376-1433	Fluor Daniel Hanford, Safety Manager
vacant	586-1187	Port of Kennewick
Patrick Balducci	372-4481	Battelle N.W., Research Economist
L. J. DaCorsi	786-7336	City of Prosser, Public Works Director
Art Tackett	234-2701	City of Connell, City Administrator
Teresa Standridge*	265-4253	City of Mesa
Roger Wright	783-1625	City of Benton City, (SCM Consultants)
Christine Travis*	282-3372	City of Kahlotus, City Clerk
Philip Merrell	527-3241	Walla Walla County Engineer/Public Works Director
Marlin Brinkley	527-4537	City of Walla Walla, City Engineer
Paul Hartwig	529-1200	City of College Place, Public Works Director
Trina Cole*	337-6371	City of Waitsburg
Mike Wallace	849-2262	City of Prescott, Engineering Consultant
Jim Kuntz	525-3100 529-0843 (Airport)	Port of Walla Walla, Port Manager
Dick Fondahn	525-9140 ext. 12	Valley Transit, Transit Manager
Mark Kushner	943-9185	BFCG/Staff, Transp. Programs Manager
**Katherine Klockenteger	705-7965	WSDOT Headquarters, Olympia (Planning)

**Paul Gamble 705-7912 WSDOT Headquarters, Olympia (Transit)
 * City Clerk
 ** Ex-Officio Members

TRI-MATS RTPO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CALENDAR YEAR 2002 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carol Moser, <i>Chair.</i>	627-5198 (H)	City of Richland, Councilwoman
Leo Bowman, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	736-3080	Benton County, Commissioner
Jerry Peltier	373-5352 (W) 539-3963 (C)	Ben Franklin Transit, Board member
Donna Noski	734-5987 (W) 967-3858 (H)	City of West Richland
Frank Brock	545-3535	Franklin County, Commissioner
Bob Olson	586-9818 (W) 783-4472 (H)	City of Kennewick, Councilman
Charles Kilbury	547-7177	City of Pasco, Mayor
Del Lathim	547-6328	Port of Pasco, Commissioner
Don Whitehouse	577-1620	WSDOT S. Central Region, Dist. Administrator
Bob Larson	375-1547(H)	Port of Benton, Commissioner
Dave Donovan	786-3345	City of Prosser, Councilman
John Olson	627-3581(H)	Port of Kennewick, Commissioner
Joan Eckman*	234-2701	City of Connell, City Clerk
Teresa Standridge*	265-4253	City of Mesa, City Clerk
Lynn Johnson	588-4531(H)	City of Benton City, Councilman
Christine Travis*	282-3372	City of Kahlotus, City Clerk
Pam Ray	527-3200 (W)	Walla Walla County, Commissioner
Jerry Cummins	525-8848	City of Walla Walla, Mayor
Ed Ammon	527-2141	City of College Place, Mayor
Trina Cole*	337-6371	City of Waitsburg, City Clerk
Mike Wallace**	849-2262	City of Prescott, Engineer
Fred Bennett	525-3455	Port of Walla Walla, Port Commissioner
David Carey	527-3200 (W) 525-9290 (H)	Valley Transit, Boardmember
A. Michele Maher	360-705-7070 509-926-3862	WA State Transportation Commissioner
Staff - Mark Kushner Manager	943-9185	BFCG, Transportation Programs

* City Clerk, not delegate

** City Consulting Engineer, not delegate